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ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00,CIAE 00,SSO 00,DODE 00,USIE 00,NSAE 00,CCO 00,SAL 01,
EUR 25,IO 21,SP 02,SS 35,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,P 04,INR 07,
SAH 03,L 03,H 02,AID 30,RSR 01,/168 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/ODC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Zyzberg DATE 12/23/81
BA or FOI EXEMPTIONS
SAIGON 4261

P R 281630Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5556
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 3976
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2311
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 SAIGON 4261

FOLLOWING TEL RECEIVED FROM DANANG AUGUST 28 DANANG 108
REPEATED YOUR STA:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 108

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN RALLY IN HUE

1. AUG 28 CANDIDATES ARRIVED HUE-PHU BAI AIRPORT ABOUT 0815 HOURS VIA SPECIAL AIR VIETNAM FLIGHT FROM DANANG. MET BY DELEGATION LED BY TWO DEPUTIES FOR ADMINISTRATION (THUA THIEN-

(1)

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HUE). A SEDAN WAS AVAILABLE FOR EACH LIST AND BUSSES WERE AVAILABLE FOR NEWSMEN. A LITTLE EARLIER PM KY ARRIVED BY SPECIAL PLANE FROM SAIGON AND WAS TAKEN BY HELICOPTER TO HUE ALONG WITH

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SEVERAL NEWSMEN WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED HIM.

2. RALLY WAS HELD IN LARGE INNER COURT YARD OF DONG KHANH GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL. BY 0800 HOURS LARGE CROWD HAD ALREADY GATHERED WHICH FINALLY REACHED ABOUT 7,000. SECURITY AT SCHOOL PROVIDED BY REGULAR POLICE AND PFF. ANOTHER GROUP OF PFF WITH TEAR GAS GRENADES AND GAS MASKS WAS LOCTED IN LARGE BOYS HIGH SCHOOL NEXT DOOR. VOTERS HAD BEEN TRANSPORTED FROM RURAL AREAS BY MILITARY TRUCKS. ALTHOUGH MANY MILITARY MEN IN CROWD, RALLY WAS NOT DOMINATED BY KHAKI AND GREEN. SEVERAL MILITARY IN UNIFORM WORE BADGES PROCLAIMING SUPPORT FOR LIST 9 (MILITARY LIST).

3. CANDIDATES ARRIVED AT DONG KHANH SCHOOL AT 0910 HOURS. CROWD GREETED CANDIDATES WARMLY, ESPECIALLY PM KY WHOM THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY SURPRISED TO SEE. AFTER ABOUT 10 OR 15 MINUTES OF DISORDER DUE LARGELY TO CURIOSITY OF SPECTATORS SPEECHES STARTED WITH NGUYEN-DINH-QUAT, LAST ON AUG 27 IN DANANG

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SPEAKING FIRST. AFTER QUAT SPEAKING ORDER WAS TRUONG-DINH DZU, NGUYEN-CAO-KY, HA-THUC-KY, MAI THO TRUYEN, PHAN-QUANG-DAN, REPRESENTATION OF HOANG CO BINH, LE-PHUOC-SINH, NGUYEN-THE-TRUYEN, MU-HONG-KHANH AND TRAN-VAN-LY.

4. QUAT WAS WELL RECEIVED BY AUDIENCE IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE CARRY OVER OF INITIAL ENTHUSIASM. HIS SPEECH WAS LARGELY A REPEAT OF PREVIOUS DAY IN DANANG. MAJOR POINTS MADE BY QUAT WERE INJUSTICE OF SOCIETY, INSECURITY IN VIETNAM AND LEGALITY OF PRESENT GOVERNMENT. QUAT WLL APPLAUDED AS HE MADE EACH POINT AND WHEN VNAF CHOPPERS FLEW OVER SCHOOL DROWNING HIM OUT CROWD PROTESTED IN HIS FAVOR. MICROPHONE TROUBLE, WHICH OCCURRED THROUGHOUT RALLY, CAUSED DELAY PREVENTING MANY QUESTIONS. QUAT RECEIVED GOOD ROUND OF APPLAUSE WHEN HE FINISHED.

5. NEXT TO SPEAK WAS TRUONG-DINH-DZU WHO WAS GREETED BY BURST OF APPLAUSE. WITH PM KY IN GRANDSTAND, DZU LAUNCHED USUAL TIRADE AGAINST GOVERNMENT. HE CRITICIZED ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN AS UNEQUAL, POINTING TO FACT THAT PM KY HAD COME IN OWN

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PRIVATE AIRPLANE. APPLAUDED AS HE CONTINUED DZU SAID HE BELIEVED

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IN RIGHT OF OPPOSITION AND RIGHT TO REMOVE ILLEGAL, INCAPABLE LEADERS, BUT NOT IN INSULTS. CLAIMED PM KY NOT WORTHY LEADER BECAUSE HE USES "LOW" WORDS TOWARDS INDIVIDUALS. ALSO SCARED REFUSAL TO ALLOW BIG MINH RETURN AND NEW, "ILLEGAL" BUDDHIST CHARTER (FOR WHICH HE WAS APPLAUDED). DURING QUESTION PERIOD DZU WAS QUERIED ABOUT PM KY'S REMARK CONCERNING CAGE IN INDEPENDENCE PALACE. DZU AGAIN OBJECTED TO KYB'S REMARKS AND STATED THAT IF ELECTED HE WOULD ACCEPT PM KY AS HIS OPPOSITION. IF KY DESIRED TO RETURN TO MILITARY, HE COULD AND LOULD BE INVITED TO COOPERATE -- DEPENDING ON HIS CAPABILITY. DZU REEMPHASIZED THAT THIEU AND KY WOULD HAVE TO RESIGN FOR ELECTION TO BE FAIR. AS DZU'S TIME RAN OUT, POWER FAILED AND MICROPHONES WENT OFF FOR FIVE MINUTES.

6. AFTER DELAY NGUYEN-CAO-KY CAME TO MICROPHONE. ALTHOUGH CROWD INTEREST OBVIOUSLY HIGH, THERE WAS LITTLE APPLAUSE. KY GAVE LACKLUSTER PERFORMANCE APPOLOGIZING FOR THIEU'S ABSENCE AND REITERATING THAT HE AND THIEU WANTEVD TO CONTINUE WORK STARTED. EMPHASIZED THAT ELECTION WOULD BE FAIR, AND THAT NO ONE COULD FORCE PEOPLE HOW TO VOTE. KY DID NOT RE-

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FER TO DZU'S REMARKS, THOUGH HE WAS OBSERVED NOTING SOME DOWN. APPARENTLY NGUYEN VAN LOC URGED HIM NOT TO REFER TO REMARKS. THORUGH SESSION OPEN TO QUESTIONS FAULTY MIKE MADE ASKING DIFFICULT. ONLY CLEAR QUESTION WAS ACCUSATION THAT KY HAD LABELED BUDDHIST STRUGGLE IN SVN "COMMUNIST." KY CLAIMED HE HAD NOT. PM KY LEFT AS SOON AS HE FINISHED SPEAKING. REPORT CAME FROM PROVINCE HP THAT GEN THIEU HAD CALLED ASKING HIM TO RETURN TO SAIGON IMMEDIATELY. WITH A STOP IN HOI AN ON THE WAY. KY RECEIVED SCATTERED APPLAUSE AS HE LEFT.

7. NEXT CAME HA-THUC-KY, WHO RECEIVED DAYS GREATEST GREETING FROM CROWD. KY'S SPEECH SCORED GOVERNMENT ON SAME LINES AS SPEECH IN

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DANANG FOR WHICH HE WAS WARMLY APPLAUDED. KY DENIED THAT CIVILIAN STATES HAD NOT REQUESTED PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S INTERVENTION. ALSO HE COMMENTED THAT OBSERVERS FROM US COULD NOT GUARANTEE HONEST ELECTIONS. BEFORE CLOSING KY NOTED PRIME M
XISTER'S LETTERS TO LEADERS OF BOTH HOUSES OF US CONGRESS ASKING FOR SUPPORT. COMMENTED THAT HM KY SHOULD SEEK SUPPORT FROM OWN PEOPLE. A FW QUESTIONS RAISED INCLUDING WHETHER HE WAS GEETING FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM FOREIGN COUNTRY.

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WHICH HE DENIED. HA-THUC-KY ROUNDLY APPLAUDED AT END OF SPEECH.

8. IMMEDIATELY AFTER HA-THUC-KY FINISHED LARGE PORTIONS OF CROWD BEGAN TO LEAVE. AMID EXITING AUDIENCE AND SOME NOISE MAI-THO-TRUYEN MADE PITCH BUT FEW PEOPLE APPEARED TO PAY
ATTENTION. AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED TRUYEN WAS ASKED AND DENIED THAT HUONG HAD OPPRESSED BUDDHISM WHILE PRIME MINISTER. TRUYEN RECEIVED LITTLE APPLAUSE.
BUNKER

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INFO NSCE 00 CIAE 00 SSO 00 DODE 00 USIE 00 NSAE 00 CCO 00 SAL 01
EUR 25 IO 21 SP 02 SS 35 GPM 03 SC 01 NSC 10 RSC 01 P 04 INR 07
SAH 03 L 03 H 02 AID 30 RSR 01 /162 W

P R 281630Z AUG 67
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5557
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 977
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 213
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

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9. DR DAN FOLLOWED TRUYEN AND REVIEWED FLAGGING INTEREST BY FIERY DENUNCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS ACTIVITIES DURING LAST TWO YEARS FOR WHICH HE WAS ROUNDLY APPLAUDED AFTER EACH POINT. NOTED GOVERNMENT CALLED ITSELF GOVERNMENT OF POOR, BUT SPENT 3 MILLION PIASTERS REDOING INDEPENDENCE PALACE LIKE A SWANK HOTEL. SAID CAMPAIGN COMPETITION NOT BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN LISTS, RATHER BETWEEN THOSE IN POWER AND THOSE OUT. DRAWING SREECH TO CLOSE DAN FOLLOWED PATTER "IF YOU AGREE THAT (INCIDENT) WAS RIGHT O ACT, THEN VOTE FOR THIEU-KY!" DAN ALSO DEALT WITH VARIOUS OTHER SUBJECTS INCLUDING ACCUSATION THAT ONLY PETTY THIEVES PUNISHED INSTEAD OF DEALING WITH REAL

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CORRUPTION. DAN RECEIVED MUCH APPLAUSE AND LAUGHTER FOR FORTHRIGHT DENUNCIATIONS ESPECIALLY AFTER NOTING REGRET THAT PM KY HAD LEFT TOO EARLY TO HEAR WHAT HE HAD TO SAY.

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10 AFTER DAN FINISHED MASS EXODUS BEGAN. WITH ALL MAJOR CANDIDATES FINISHED NO ONE MUCH INTERESTED. A REPRESENTATIVE FOR HOANG-CO-BINH SPOKE APPOLOGIZING FOR BINH'S ABSENCE THE SPEAKING FOR FULL TIME ALLOWED. LACK OF INTEREST IN LIST TYPIFIED BY QUESTIONER WHO WAS TOLD - "THAT IS NOT MY LISTS STATEMENT BUT ANOTHER'J." SINH FOLLOWED WITH NEGLIBLE ATTENTION. NGUYEN-THE-TRUYEN THEN SPOKE. VU-HONG-KHANH'S APPEARANCE BROUGHT TOGETHER MOST OF WHAT REMAINED OF AUDIENCE WHICH APPARENTLY WAITED FOR HIM OUT OF VNPDD PARTY LOYALTY. KHANH AGAIN NOTED REVOLUTIONARY BACKGROUND, THE TURNED MICROPHONE OVER TO SPOKESMAN TO REHASH COMPLAINTS AGAINST THIEU
KY. WITH KHANH TROUGH MOST OF WHAT REMAINED OF AUDIENCE LEFT, LEAVING TRAN-VAN-LY TO REMARK HE WAS UNLUCKY TO SPEAK LAST. AFTER SPEAKING BRIEFLY LY BOWED TO INEVITABLE, NOTED IT WAS LUNCH TIME AND AT 1220 PROGRAM ENDED.

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11. BEST RECEPTION BY CROWD WAS FOR HA-THUC-KY, TRUONG-DINH DZU, AND PHAN-QUANG-DAN. CROWD CAME TO HEAR FAVORITES, MOST OF WHOM SPOKE FIRST AND THEN LEFT LEAVING LAST FIVE LISTS VIRTUALLY WITHOUT AUDIENCE. CROWD, AS IN DANANG, WAS LARGE. MICROPHONE TROUBLE CAUSED DELAY, HOWEVER, AND BECAUSE SPEAKERS COULD NOT HEAR QUESTIONS, QUESION PERIOD GENERALLY ANTI-CLIMACTIC. HUE CROWD WAS OBVIOUSLY PLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO BE TREATED TO ONE OF LIST 9 CANDIDATES.

KAREN

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